

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for producing a dehydrocyclodimerization catalyst comprising an amorphous phosphorus-modified alumina hydrogel, the method comprising admixing an alumina hydrosol with a phosphorus-containing compound and a zeolite, commingling the phosphorus-modified admixture with a gelling agent which is hydrolyzable at an elevated temperature, dispersing the commingled admixture as droplets in a suspending medium under conditions effective to transform the droplets into hydrogel particles, aging the hydrogel particles in a suspending medium, washing the hydrogel particles with water, drying the hydrogel particles, calcining the hydrogel particles, depositing a gallium component on the hydrogel particles, treating the hydrogel particles containing the zeolite and the gallium component with a fluid comprising water and having a concentration of total nitrogen of less than 0.01 mass %, and drying the hydrogel particles containing the zeolite and the gallium component to obtain [phosphorus-modified alumina particles] dehydrocyclodimerization catalyst.

2. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further characterized in that the treating of the hydrogel particles containing the zeolite and the gallium component with the fluid occurs at a temperature of from about 50°C to about 100°C and for a time of from about 1 to about 48 hours.

3. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further characterized in that the treating of the hydrogel particles containing the zeolite and the gallium component with the fluid occurs for a time of less than 5 seconds.

4. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further characterized in that the hydrogel particles are separated from the fluid and the drying of the hydrogel particles containing the zeolite and the gallium component to obtain [phosphorus-modified alumina particles] dehydrocyclodimerization catalyst occurs at a temperature of from about 500°C to about 700°C and for a time of from about 1 to about 15 hours.

5. (original) The method of Claim 1 further characterized in that the fluid consists of at least one of an aqueous solution of a weakly acidic ammonium salt and a dilute acid solution.

6. (original) The method of Claim 1 further characterized in that the fluid contains a weakly acidic ammonium salt or an acid.

7. (original) The method of Claim 6 wherein the weakly acidic ammonium salt is selected from the group consisting of ammonium chloride, ammonium acetate, ammonium nitrate, and mixtures thereof.

8. (original) The method of Claim 6 wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric, acetic, nitric and sulfuric acid.

9. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the gelling agent is selected from the group consisting of hexamethylenetetraamine, urea, and mixtures thereof.

10. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the alumina hydrosol comprises a chloride compound and has an aluminum to chloride compound weight ratio of from about 0.70:1 to about 1.5:1.

11. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the resulting phosphorus-modified admixture has a phosphorus to aluminum molar ratio of from 1:1 to 1:100 on an elemental basis.

12. (currently amended) A method for producing a dehydrocyclodimerization catalyst comprising an amorphous phosphorus-modified alumina hydrogel, the method comprising admixing an alumina hydrosol having an aluminum to chloride compound weight ratio of from about 0.70:1 to 1.5:1 with a phosphorus-containing compound and a zeolite, the phosphorus to aluminum molar ratio in the resulting phosphorus-modified admixture being from 1:1 to 1:100 on an elemental basis, commingling the phosphorus-modified admixture with a gelling agent and spray drying at conditions effective to obtain hydrogel particles, calcining the hydrogel particles, depositing a gallium component on the hydrogel particles, treating the hydrogel particles containing the zeolite and the gallium component with a fluid comprising water and having a concentration of total nitrogen of less than 0.01 mass %, and drying the hydrogel particles to obtain [phosphorus-modified alumina particles] dehydrocyclodimerization catalyst.

13. (currently amended) The method of Claim 12 further characterized in that the treating of the hydrogel particles containing the zeolite and the gallium component with the fluid occurs at a temperature of from about 50°C to about 100°C and for a time of from about 1 to about 48 hours.

14. (currently amended) The method of Claim 12 further characterized in that the treating of the hydrogel particles containing the zeolite and the gallium component with the fluid occurs for a time of less than 5 seconds.

15. (currently amended) The method of Claim 12 further characterized in that the hydrogel particles are separated from the fluid and the drying of the hydrogel particles containing the zeolite and the gallium component to obtain [phosphorus-modified alumina particles] dehydrocyclodimerization catalyst occurs at a temperature of from about 500°C to about 700°C and for a time of from about 1 to about 15 hours.

16. (original) The method of Claim 12 further characterized in that the fluid consists of at least one of an aqueous solution of a weakly acidic ammonium salt and a dilute acid solution.

17. (original) The method of Claim 12 further characterized in that the fluid contains a weakly acidic ammonium salt or an acid.

18. (original) The method of Claim 17 wherein the weakly acidic ammonium salt is selected from the group consisting of ammonium chloride, ammonium acetate, ammonium nitrate, and mixtures thereof.

19. (original) The method of Claim 17 wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric, acetic, nitric and sulfuric acid.